

Message Text

SECRET

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11/44
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-05 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3989
SECDEF WASHDC ASD/ISA/SA IMMEDIATE
INFO DSAA
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
US ARMY SECTION RIYADH

S E C R E T JIDDA 1773

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, YE, US
SUBJECT: SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

REF (A) JIDDA 1578, (B) STATE 45897, (C) SANA 811

SUMMARY: SAG MODA YEMEN PROJECT OFFICIAL COL FALAH DDHAHIRI
EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN MARCH 8 ABOUT SOVIET EFFORTS TO
MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THEIR PRESENCE IN YAR AND SAID HE HOPED
THAT THE USG WOULD RESPOND QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO THE
SAUDI LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE YAR AMRED FORCES. DHAHIRI
ALSO SAID THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT SAUDI-
YEMENI COMMISSION WOULD TAKE PLACE LATER THIS MONTH IN
SANA THOUGH NO RPT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING A MEETING AT MODA IN RIYADH WITH EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER JESSE LEWIS, CHIEF OF USMTM ARMY SECTION COL. DAN SCHUNGEL AND HIS DEPUTY, LT. COL. STOUT, YEMEN PROJECT OFFICER COL. FALAH DHAHIRI EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN THAT IF THE USG DID NOT RESPOND QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY TO THE SAUDI LIST OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR YAR, THE SOVIET UNION MAY INCREASE ITS PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN YEMEN. "I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE OFFERING YEMEN," DHAHIRI SAID. "THE RUSSIANS' OFFER IS NOT FOR THE SAKE OF YEMEN, THEY ARE TRYING TO PROVE THEY ARE BETTER THAN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES. IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST THEY (UNDERLINE THEY) CAN WORK WHEN THEY WANT TO." HE WAS TOO KIND TO DRAW COMPARISON WITH OUR (UNDERLINE OUR) PROCEDURES IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. DHAHIRI SAID HE HOPED THAT MODA WOULD RECEIVE SOON THE LOA'S FOR THE LIST OF EQUIPMENT HE GAVE DURING THE JANUARY MEETING WITH COL. FIFER. "WE ARE WAITING TO SIGN THE LOA'S. WE HAVE THE MONEY," HE SAID. "WE ARE ALSO READY TO SEND OUR TRAINING MISSION TO SANA BUT WE WANT TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE SOMETHING IN HAND."

3. ALSO DURING THIS MEETING LEWIS DELIVERED TO DHAHIRI THE DEPARTMENT'S POINTS ON THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER OF ARMS (REF B) (WE HAD NOT SEEN SANA 811 BEFORE THE MEETING). BOTH DHAHIRI AND HIS ASSISTANT LT. COL. MAHDI AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE SIMPLEST TO SHIP THE EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT PRINCE SULTAN NEEDED TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE SAG WOULD HAVE ADEQUATE CONTROL OVER THE FLOW OF EQUIPMENT TO YEMEN.

4. DHAHIRI SAID THAT PRINCE SULTAN WOULD LEAD A MINISTERIAL DELEGATION TO SANA SOMETIME THIS MONTH FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SAG-YAR JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION. HE SAID THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND EDUCATION WOULD BE IN THE GROUP. PRINCE SULTAN WOULD ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY LTG KABBANI MODA G-3 AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS. (PERHAPS MODA CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. HUMAID AS WELL).

5. COMMENT: WE THINK DHAHIRI'S ALARM OVER SOVIET MOVES
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IN YEMEN MAY BE THE RESULT OF HIS RECENT AWARENESS OF THE MAGNITUDE OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENT REPORTED TO BE DESTINED FOR SANA. WE ALSO THINK THAT THE FEELING OF URGENCY TO MOVE ON YAR AMONG FORCES MODERNIZATION IS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF SULTAN'S MOOD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I BELIEVE ASD/ISA JORDAN PARTY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO INDICATE THAT WE AGREE TO ASSIST

THE SAUDI EFFORT IN YAR AMRED FORCES MODERNIZATION.
THAT PARTY SHOULD ALSO BRING LIST OF ITEMS FOR AN
"IMPACT PACKAGE" CULLED FROM THE LIST WHICH COULD BE
AVAILABLE FOR URGENT SHIPMENT TO TYE YAR. THIS CULD
BE USEFUL BOTH IN CONVINCING THE SAG OF OUR INTENT TO
COOPERATE WITH THEM AND HOPEFULLY ALSO IN PERSUADING
THE YARG THAT THE SAUDI-US CONNECTION CAN BE DEPENDED
UPON. IT WOULD ALSO CONSIDERABLY ENHANCE THE
ATMOSPHERE FOR THE JORDAN VISIT.
PORTER

SECRET

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